



THE WAY

JOHN 14:6

SEPTEMBER EDITION 2024 NNSW SDA SCHOOLS

WHAT DOES IT PROFIT A MAN?

Paul Fua

Director of Education

Catherine the Great was a German born Empress who ruled Russia from 1762 – 1796. It is considered that ‘ambition’ was her favourite hobby and in 1783 she authorised Russian statesman, reported lover and nobleman Grigory Potemkin to embark on a conquest to wrest the agriculturally rich Crimea from the Ottoman Empire.

Having achieved this for the Empress, his next plan was to colonize and develop the new territory, but for a number of reasons he failed in this endeavour. In 1787 Catherine determine to cruise the Dnieper River to view her new holdings which remained undeveloped since it was seized.

History records that Potemkin devised a clever plan to impress the Empress that included, two-dimensional pasteboard building facades, herds of farm animals, fireworks and happy, grateful villagers transported from central Russia who waved colourful flags as she sailed by.

As the ship passed, and moored for the evenings the villages were dismantled and erected downstream to create an expansive illusion about the success of Potemkin’s efforts to colonize the new land. This

considerable effort may have fooled the Empress and her entourage and brought great favour to Potemkin, but he had to appease a conscience that would bring no peace to his thoughts and he never fooled God.

While there has been some conjecture about the accuracy of this story, we may find an uncomfortable application in our lives and schools. For years I was a Potemkin Christian and I discovered that a church is a pretty safe place to hide from God.

I was active in my church, accepted and adopted the Adventist lifestyle and had a reasonable knowledge of scripture that I had gained from faithful parents in family worship. I wasn’t a Potemkin Christian because I wanted to be, but rather, because I didn’t know how to have a relationship with Jesus and I didn’t know how much happiness and purpose comes from knowing Him.

“ One of the clearest ways that God speaks to us is through His Word. I made a commitment to read it for an hour each morning and this began the greatest experience of my life. I challenge you to try it for a month and let the Word change you. We are thrilled to hear that many of our students are starting this journey with God through His Word. Let’s make sure we don’t get left behind. 🙏 ”

He awakens me morning by morning,
He awakens my ear
To hear as the learned.
Isaiah 50:4



NEWS

Early Child Educators' Day

On September 4th, our nation paused to honour and celebrate the vital work happening in Early Learning Centres across the country.

To the Directors, Leaders, Teachers, and Admin Staff of our Early Learning Centres, Preschools, and Pre-Kindys, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. We see the patience, love, and dedication you pour into your students each day. Your countless small acts of kindness may sometimes go unnoticed, but they are always seen by our Heavenly Father. As you reflect on the day, remember that you are part of a large, essential national team of educators. Take pride in your work; that day was dedicated to celebrating you and the profound impact you have on young lives.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for everything you do.



Port Macquarie: ABC Day

On Wednesday, September 11th, our school proudly reinstated the Annual ABC Adventure Day and it was a resounding success! Students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 10 came together for a day of creativity, learning, and fun.

The younger students, from Pre-K to Year 2, had the opportunity to join over 100 preschoolers and members of the public as they rotated through various stations, each themed around a different letter of the alphabet. They enjoyed engaging in crafts, savouring delicious snacks, participating in physical activities, and watching exciting demonstrations.

Our students from Years 3 to 10 played a crucial role in running the event. Groups of 2-3 students managed the stations, interacted with parents and carers, and showcased their skills as outstanding ambassadors for our school.

Some of the day's highlights included visits to baby animals at Old Macdonald's Farm, bouncing on the Jumping Castle, exploring The Big Red Bus, and checking out the local Fire and Rescue Firetruck.

Here is some of the positive feedback we received from families who attended:

"Beautifully and professionally organised. We are grandparents and enjoyed it immensely."

"Absolutely brilliant learning experience for all! Such wonderful, confident students at your school!"

"Just thank you for putting on a great day. Especially as my son doesn't go to daycare, he had the best time, and it was lovely to see your school for the first time."

ABC Adventure Day is back on the calendar for 2025!



Port Macquarie: Building Project

The long-awaited science and food technology classrooms have provided more space for secondary students to experiment and cook up a feast. This is exciting and will provide greater opportunities for all high school students, including Year 11 students beginning in 2025. The new area includes a reception/sick bay, principal's office, head of secondary office, and storage space in the classrooms.

PMAS is enjoying the addition of a bus to transport students for excursions and sports, along with new play equipment and a water sports area for primary school students to enjoy. With spring in the air, these are perfect additions to support student learning while having fun.



Toronto & Kempsey QASCR

by Jacques Calais'

Over the past few weeks, both Toronto Adventist School and Kempsey Adventist School have participated in their Quality Adventist School Cyclic Review. This audit is administered by Adventist Schools Australia on all Australian Adventist Schools every five years.

It ensures that each school is fulfilling its role as a vital ministry of the Adventist Church and is setting the highest standards of educational service. It is, in effect, a "quality assurance" process designed to support schools on their journey to be a thriving Christ-centred learning community. Associate National Director Mr Jacques Calais, who led the review teams for both Toronto and Kempsey, said, "Both schools are a beautiful expression of Adventist Education, fully committed to the ministry and mission of Adventist Education, and achieving incredible outcomes for students." He added, "I could not be prouder of the journey for both schools. It is so exciting to see our schools so passionate about sharing Jesus, growing, improving, and serving their communities with distinction." Both schools received full five-year accreditation, and we are so excited for their plans on how they will continue their journey to be incredible lighthouses for Jesus in their communities.

The visiting team at Kempsey included:

- Jacques Calais (Associate National Director, ASA)
- Deb Cooper (Principal, Avondale School)
- Meggan James (Principal, Nunawading Christian School)
- Hannah Stekla (Head of Secondary, Nunawading Christian School)
- Peter Williams (General Manager for Education, NNSW)
- Ashley Smith (General Manager for Mission, NNSW)

The visiting team at Toronto included:

- Jacques Calais (Associate National Director, ASA)
- Paul Fua (Director of Education, NNSW)
- Erika Ratu (Principal, Hurstville Adventist School)
- Peter Williams (General Manager for Education, NNSW)
- Ashley Smith (General Manager for Mission, NNSW)

Congratulations to both schools on a successful audit! The staff are to be commended for achieving such excellent results.



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

ADRIAN MCMANUS

KEMPSEY ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Each recipient will receive a \$50 gift card in recognition of their outstanding performance. Congratulations to Adrian – keep the flame burning!

We are excited to recognise our campus manager, Adrian McManus, as the September Employee of the Month! Over his years of dedicated service, Adrian has showcased exceptional skills in maintaining and improving our facilities. From building and repairing structures to enhancing outdoor spaces, his craftsmanship is evident in every project.

Beyond his technical abilities, Adrian is known for his positive attitude and willingness to support and add value to special events such as Week of Worship, special days, and our Carols program. Adrian consistently goes above and beyond, assisting colleagues with various tasks and sharing valuable insights that improve our operations.

Adrian's dedication to excellence and teamwork has not gone unnoticed. His contributions make our school a better place for everyone.

Please join us in congratulating Adrian on this well-deserved recognition! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to making our campus a beautiful place to learn and grow!



MISSIONAL NEWS

TVAC visit Kingscliff Church

On the Sabbath of Week 9, Tweed Valley Adventist College (TVAC) hosted the divine service at Kingscliff Seventh-day Adventist Church, a local church in their area. All three school choirs performed, with the Secondary Choir carrying most of the program. The Secondary Ensemble presented a special item, along with some secondary students, while two TVAC students—one a 2023 graduate and one current student—shared a video from their music ministry (see @SheliandNela on YouTube). Mr. Andrew North, the Deputy Principal, delivered the main message, reflecting on how God led in the founding of TVAC. It was truly a high Sabbath.



TVAC: WOSE

TVAC held its Secondary WOSE program in Week 9 of this term. The theme for the week was “Make it Yours”—a call to action for students to take ownership of their relationship with God and make it personal. Bryce Davis, an ARISE graduate of 2024, spoke powerfully throughout the week. At the final appeal, 77 students decided to give their hearts to Jesus, 17 expressed interest in 1-on-1 Bible studies, and four new students indicated a desire to be baptised. We praise God for moving once again in our school. These encouraging results bring the free choice student Bible Study participation to 90% and is having a wonderful impact on school culture.



Port Macquarie Adventist School WOW

We had plenty of inspiration during WOW in Term 3, Week 7, as we learned about “Courage and Determination” with Kurt Rosendahl. The program was led by students and staff from both primary and secondary classrooms, and it included our school band, the debut of our student choir, and a challenging quiz presented by the high school students.

Powerful lessons about taking a stand, making good choices even when they aren't popular, and being determined not to give up were well received by both students and parents, making it a memorable Week of Worship.

Pr. Kurt chose to drink the healthy smoothie because the donuts, ice cream, and Nutella with a sprinkle of spinach didn't look very appealing! Good choice, Pr. Kurt!





Avondale School High School WOW

During the last week of August, our Secondary Campus began each day with Week of Worship. Our guest speaker, Pr. Josh Kross from Victoria, spoke about what chasing the “W” means when Jesus is in your life. Sofia L. and Joash G. served as our fun and energetic hosts, encouraging great interaction and student involvement. Year 11 student Isabelle T. assembled a band that included talented musicians from various year groups. The entire team worked hard to create an inviting atmosphere of worship that started each day with a spiritual connection. Our secondary students were excited and encouraged in their faith journey.

Manning Adventist School: Solomon Singing Group

Manning Adventist School recently welcomed a singing group from the Solomon Islands, who originally planned a short visit but ended up spending the entire day with the students. Their joyful interactions and heartfelt singing created an unforgettable experience. The visit sparked an email penpal exchange between the students, fostering new friendships. The group’s leader, Samantha Buka, shared, “God has been really, really great and has gone ahead and created a beautiful day for us to have crossed paths.” The day was a wonderful reminder of God’s love and the global Adventist family.



Macquarie College: Elevate Evening Church Visit

Macquarie College’s recent Elevate concert was a powerful celebration of Christian faith, expressed through sacred text and music. The program showcased the musical talents of various Macquarie College (MC) choirs and musicians, all directed toward worshipping God through music. The concert highlighted the school’s deep commitment to nurturing spiritual growth and glorifying God through artistic expression. A notable moment of the evening was the performance of the hymn “Amazing Grace” by a combined choir of both Junior and Senior school students, reflecting the unity and shared faith of the school community.



In addition to the Elevate program, MC recently led a church service at Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, which also featured performances by various MC choirs. A sermon was delivered by Year 9 student Elijah Luchow, who spoke on the theme of God’s faithfulness, further reinforcing the school’s spiritual mission.

Currently, more than 140 students and staff are actively involved in Bible studies, demonstrating the school’s commitment to creating an environment of spiritual nurture and support. Through programs like Elevate and ongoing initiatives, MC continues to uplift Christ, fostering a community centred on faith and worship.

TVAC: Scent

In Week 5, TVAC held its annual Scent Concert, a fundraiser hosted by the Year 11 students for their end-of-year service trip to Vanuatu. The evening was filled with musical performances from all three TVAC choirs, as well as contributions from various members of the school and church communities. An estimated 400 people attended the concert, and over \$23,000 was raised for the trip, with \$13,000 coming from the concert alone. In Vanuatu, students will be building an amenities block and playground at the same local school that last year’s cohort served. All funds will go toward the materials needed for the service trip, not the associated travel costs.





CCAS: WOSE

"The battle belongs to the Lord; when I fight, I'll fight on my knees, with my hands lifted high." US Navy SEAL chaplain Aman Grant inspired the staff and students of CCAS with the reminder that we can't always see what's coming in the battle, but the positive and hope-filled end belongs to Jesus and to those who put their faith in His powerful presence through the Spirit. Aman spoke 23 times to our community: four cohorts of around 300 students across K-12, and multiple staff workshops, culminating in Haven Campus Church's KidsChurch. The students also raised \$5,313 for CCAS service trips (StormCo and Make-A-Difference Year 12 Vanuatu).

HopeFest at WOSE 2 at CCAS is always an exploration of the questions: What does the world need? How can we become the expression of God's love for His world, the world He loves so much (John 3:16-17)? How do we love others? HopeFest is a K-12, student-led festival fundraiser featuring stalls, games, bake sales, ballooning, face painting, music, pizza, BBQ, and the student favourite: the "splash the teacher" sponge throw.



CCAS: Musical

This month, Central Coast Adventist School wrapped up their Primary Musical, *You Are Special*, based on Max Lucado's story that reminds children God values and loves them just as they are. The Year 3 students took on the main characters, with all students from Years 1-3 participating in the songs. After months of hard work and many rehearsals, the students blessed their families and peers over three incredible performances. A huge thank you to Andrea Grant and Jillene Donnelly for driving this production. Additionally, our Year 6 students raised over \$2000 for Ronald McDonald House through a successful fundraiser.



SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

The NNSW Education Company has created both a Facebook and Instagram account to capture the stories happening around our wonderful schools. We see the exciting things taking place and would love to have a central location where these stories are shared.



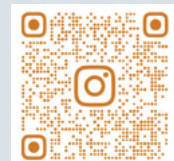
Facebook page:



Adventist Education North New South Wales



Instagram page:



@adventisteducationnsw

NICE TO MEET YOU

ASMITRA MUSK [HR OFFICER]

To foster a sense of community across our Conference, we will spotlight one employee each month.



What is your name and where did you grow up?

Hello, everyone! I'm Asmitra Musk. I grew up in Indonesia and came to Australia to study.

Can you share a bit about your family?

I am married to Jared Musk, and we have two children: Abigail, who is 10 years old, and Ruthie, who is 7. They both attend Toronto Adventist School. We love camping and welcoming the Sabbath with songs while my daughter plays the violin.

What school are you working at?

I work at the Corporate Office.

How long have you been there?

I started working for NNSW Adventist Education in late September 2021.

What is your role?

I'm an HR Officer.

What made you want to join us?

I was attracted to the company's mission of "The Bridge – Developing Minds, Connecting Hearts."

How does your faith effect your work?

I love the quote by Paul Fua: "I am here for my Heavenly Father's business." It is a great honour to be part of His work.

What do you do for fun outside of work?

I enjoy trying out new recipes, going to the beach (swimming, kayaking, etc.), and camping with my family.

Any hidden talents or hobbies?

I love singing with my family.

Which Bible character are you most excited to meet and why?

I love all of them, but Jesus is the first one I want to meet. I just want to give Him a big hug and thank Him for all the suffering He endured so that I can be with Him at His soon return.

Dates to Diarise

28 SEP - 13 OCT	School Holidays
6 OCTOBER	Daylight Savings
7 OCTOBER	Labour Day Holiday
15 OCTOBER	HSC Exams begin
20 - 23 OCTOBER	ASA Chaplains Convention



Do you have news for the monthly newsletter? We'd love to hear from you! Submit by the last Wednesday of each month.

CONTACT US

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